



NEWS RELEASE

Office of the
United States Attorney
for the
District of Nebraska
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December 30, 2009

United States Attorney Deborah Gilg and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service announce the following information for the attention of the media:

Event Triggering this Release: Jason Seaton of Grayville, Illinois was sentenced on December 29, 2009, for his conviction for transporting wildlife across state lines which had been taken in violation of state law. Seaton was sentenced to two years of probation during which time he is prohibited from hunting. In addition he was ordered to pay a fine of \$1,000 and restitution in the amount of \$1,000.

In this case, Seaton arranged for a Nebraska hunting trip through an outfitter in Decatur, Nebraska. The hunters in this group were responsible for getting their own Nebraska hunting permits. However, there were no permits available in the unit where the outfitter's property was located. Seaton then made online applications for some of the hunters in his group to obtain permits in a nearby unit even though he knew they would not be hunting in that unit.

The individual unit permits obtained by Seaton were cheaper than statewide permits which were also available. One of the hunters in Seaton's group was a game warden from Tennessee. This warden insisted on having the statewide permit when he was advised of the situation, so Seaton bought a statewide permit for just this warden. Despite purchasing the statewide permit for the warden, Seaton purchased the wrong unit permit for himself.

Seaton killed a deer using the improper permit which is a violation of state law. He then transported that deer across state lines to bring it home. This made it a federal offense under the Lacey Act.

Name of Defendant: Jason M. Seaton

AKA:

Age: 34

City of residence: Grayville, Il

Crime(s) Charged and Potential Penalty (A CHARGE is merely an accusation and every defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty): Transportation of wildlife across state lines which was taken in violation of state law. (Lacey Act, 16 U.S.C. §3372). The maximum statutory penalty is one year of imprisonment and/or a \$100,000 fine.

Specific Location of Alleged Crime: Decatur, Nebraska

Location of Arrest: A summons was issued

Alleged Dollar Loss/Type and Quantity of Drug:

Others Charged in Same Scheme: James Seaton, John Tallent, Beverly Doane

Relevant Dates:

Date of Alleged Crime: November 14, 2006

Federal Arrest Date:

Date Complaint Issued:

Indictment Returned Date: October 21, 2008

Initial Appearance Date: March 4, 2009

Plea or Trial and Date(s): Trial held May 14, 2009

Sentencing Date: December 29, 2009

Next Court Hearing Type and Date:

Assigned Magistrate Judge: Honorable Thomas D. Thalken

Held without Bond, or Released from Custody: released on bond

In Continuous Custody Since:

Assigned District Court Judge:

Initials of Assigned AUSA/Preparer of THIS Release: DRS